



# *Appointments and Briefings*

April 12, 2016 – 7:01 PM – **Minutes**  
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS**

**DATE: APRIL 12, 2016**

**TIME: 7:01 P.M.**

**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET, CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; JAMES OLIVEIRA; KERRY WINTERSON**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO**

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Councillor Bousquet called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Morad and Rebeiro stating they would be absent and a Communication from Councillor Gomes stating he would be late in attending tonight's meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Winteron and seconded by Councillor Martins.

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Councillor Bousquet announced the start of Citizens Input Times not to exceed the first thirty minutes of this meeting. (1, 1a)

Christian Smith of 86 Calumet Street, New Bedford spoke on the need for the City Council to change the current food truck Ordinance to accommodate higher end pricing trucks. He provided a copy of his concerns to the Committee. Councillor Lopes made a motion to receive and place on file the concerns submitted by Mr. Smith, which was seconded by Councillor Abreu.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Martins, Oliveira and Bousquet, requesting, that Hands Across the River Coalition, Inc., and South Coast Neighbors United Organization be invited to attend a Committee on Appointment and Briefings meeting to discuss their opposition to the Access Northeast LNG expansion project and to present a fifteen minute presentation (Ref'd 2/25/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2)

Mr. Roger Cabral, 9 Bow Drive, Acushnet, MA spoke on behalf of the South Coast Neighborhoods United Organization. He presented and discussed the following issues the Community will encounter should permission be given to Eversource/Spectra to erect new and larger LNG tanks in Acushnet, whose property abuts the city.

- a. The proposed expansion is approximately one mile from the Pulaski School
- b. The tanks are nearby to a hospital and nursing home facilities
- c. The proposed tanks are 13 times bigger than the ones currently in place
- d. The tanks will be 6 times bigger than the known rainbow LNG tank outside of Boston
- e. The proposed tanks will be 170' high and 90 yards across
- f. The new tanks will be closer to New Bedford
- g. That this is not just an Acushnet issue by a New Bedford issue; it is not safe

Mr. Cabral hopes the City Council will take a stand against the expansion of the tanks.

A conversation ensued, which included Councillor Abreu asking about the open houses Spectra (the proponents of the project) were going? He was told that they were more like attending a science fair and that those presenting the open houses, did not have a lot of the answers on the questions being posed by citizens. There was not a lot of confidence in the answers given.

Councillor Oliveira explained he at first was open minded to the proposed project but he is concerned with the possible health related issues that have come to light on such projects and storage of LNG. He asked how the project will pan out. He was told that South Coast United has been very vocal against the proposed project, and that the Attorney General has taken notice. The tow ways to stop the project would be for the DPU not to approve the tariff program and if they do, then for the Attorney general to start a court process.

Councillor Carney explained she is not a fan of LNG. Mr. Cabral provided the Council with their email address which is [www.scnu.us](http://www.scnu.us), and a Face book page address as South Coast Neighborhoods United.

Ms. Wendy Garcia of East Freetown also a member of SCNU stated that there is a grass root movement against this project, and that they would like the Council to take a stand against the project. She did admit that there have been a number of local town and City Councils that have been hesitant in taking a stand.

On motion by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for ninety (90) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, City Clerk/ Clerk of the City Council, on behalf of Joseph Migliori, d/b/a JOE'S TRANSPORTATION, 99 David Street, New Bedford, MA 02744, hereby submits a copy of Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 159A, Section 1, and amendments thereto, and M.G.L. Chapter 270, Section 22 (Smoke Free Workplace Law) and all other laws applicable to such operation to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford.(Ref'd 1/14/16, 3/8/16-tabled) (3)

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter as the applicant was unable to attend for the second time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that the Mayor's Office look into whether a process can be implemented to make it easier for the public to obtain necessary permits, housing, building, contracting, etc., a one-stop permitting process in City Hall, as opposed to the process currently in place, where people have to drive to different locations in the City to obtain various permits for the same project (Ref'd 3/26/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (4)

Dan Romanowicz, DIS Commissioner spoke on this issue. Councillor Coelho expressed her concerns that to apply for permits in the city required going from one department to another and could be quite cumbersome to get something done. She was told by Commissioner Romanowicz that the city has taken steps to simplify the process that many of the applications can currently be applied for on line and that by the end of April they will be adding solar and building permitting to the online process.

Councillor Coelho asked if it was the city's intent to have all permitting on line in the future and she was told yes, it should all be in place before the end of 2016.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that the City of New Bedford, and the Office of Labor Relations begin a discussion with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), so that the City of New Bedford can begin the Municipal Equality Index (MEI) process of self-submission, by which any City can submit themselves to be rated by The Human Rights Campaign, the Municipal Equality Index examines the laws, policies, and services of Municipalities across the Country and rate them on the basis of their inclusivity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender LGBT community (Ref'd 5/28/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (5)

Sandy Vezina, Personnel Director spoke on this issue.

Councillor Lopes explained he had met with Ms. Vezina recently and they had discussed what needed to be done to meet the submission requirements. Ms. Vezina, stated the city currently provides healthcare for LGBT; but, unfortunately a lot of other departments in the city need to review their functions to see how to apply it to the Human Rights Campaign requirements, Departments and Committees such as the Human Relations Commission and Community Services. She called for the need to establish a Committee to include all the appropriate parties to have a discussion and come up with an action plan. This Committee would more than likely be initiated by the Personnel Department through the Administration.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for six (6) months. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading on items six (6), seven (7) and eight (8) and table for thirty (30) days, since Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks & Recreation was unable to attend this meeting. This motion passed on a voice vote. The motions are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that the Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings about establishing a

policy and procedure manual for parking at Fort Taber Park, the Fort Taber Community Center, and any Special Events Request utilizing Fort Taber Park. (Ref'd 7/16/15, 9/30/15 – tabled to January 2016) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Parks Recreation and Beaches Director Mary Rapoza, Police Chief David Provencher, DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle, and Department of Facilities and Fleet Management Director Kenneth Blanchard, for the purpose of putting together a comprehensive plan of action to deal with summer events being held at Fort Taber and in the south end; and further, that Parks, Recreation and Beaches Director, the Police Chief, DPI and DFFM strictly enforce park rules and regulations including parks and beaches closing times, furthermore; that the City look into hiring park and beach enforcement officers to enforce the rules and regulations of our parks and beaches.(Ref'd 7/16/15, 9/30/15 –tabled to January 2016) (7)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Related Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting, that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches Director Mary Rapoza, the Park Board Chairman, the Director of the Health Department, Dr. Brenda Weis and Police Chief Provencher, be invited to a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss the procedures for granting permits for events to our parks, to ensure all related facets of the permitted events are in place.(Ref'd 7/16/15, 9/30/15 – tabled to January 2016) (8)

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On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading on items nine (9), ten (10) and eleven (11) and follow the Chairs recommendation and take “No Further Action” on these matters at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Carney, requesting, that Police Chief Provencher and Attorney Flor from the Mayor’s Task Force appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the number of valid complaints since Problem Properties Ordinance has been implanted. (Ref'd 10/22/15) (9)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Council President Gomes, submitting a copy of the Statement from City Solicitor McDermott, regarding the City of New Bedford’s settlement with AVX Corporation (AVX) and Cornell Dubilier Electronics, Inc. (CDE) for claims relating the North Terminal Rail Yard and the Parker Street Waste site. (Ref'd 11/24/15) (10)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, City Council President Gomes, submitting information from Randy Jones, Lion Landscaping regarding his plan to help the youth of our City. (To be referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings.) (Ref'd 9/10/15, 10/28/15- refer packet along with a Communication of the Committee’s support of the program to Pat Sullivan, Community Development and Planning to see if it can be enacted and they reach out to Mr. Jones directly.) (11)

Councillor Coelho made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Abreu.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees

